

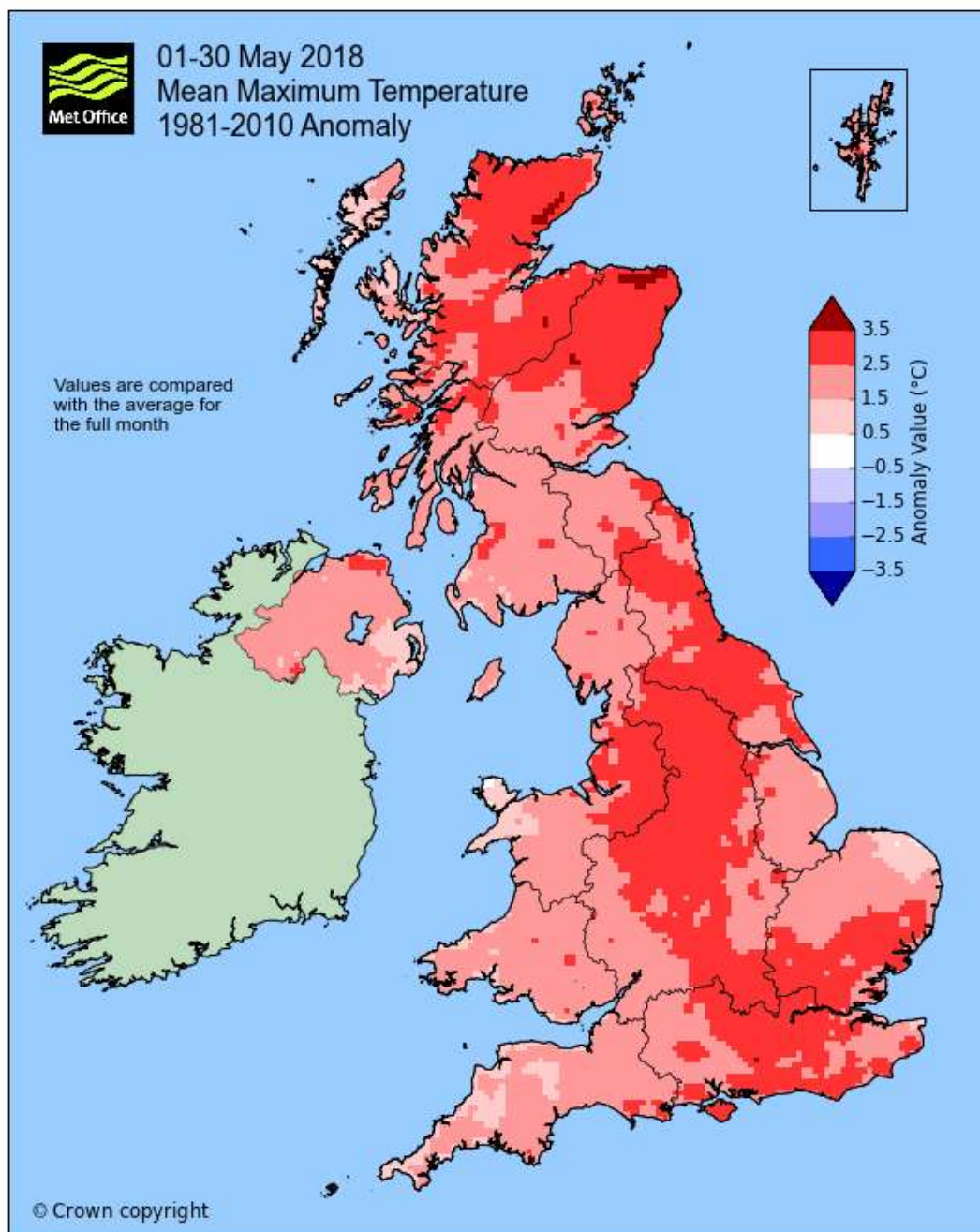
Potentially record-breaking May tops up an average spring

Author: Press Office

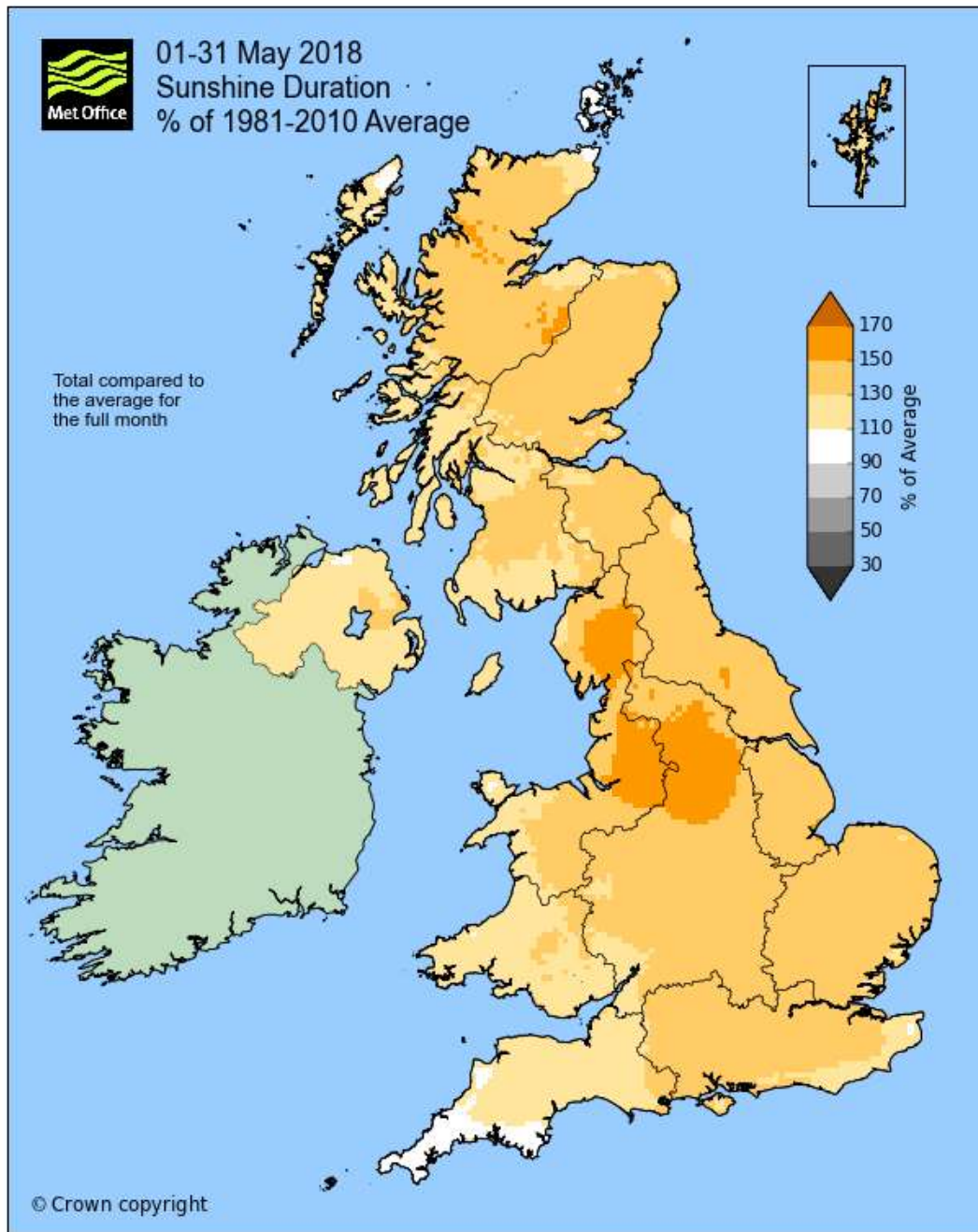
11:12 (UTC+1) on Fri 1 Jun 2018

Increased sunshine during May has helped to make it a provisional record-breaking May for daily maximum temperature and sunshine across the UK.

The provisional average daily maximum temperature was 17.0 °C during May making it the warmest May in the UK in a series of records stretching back to 1910. The previous warmest May was in 1992 when the average daytime maximum 16.9 °C.

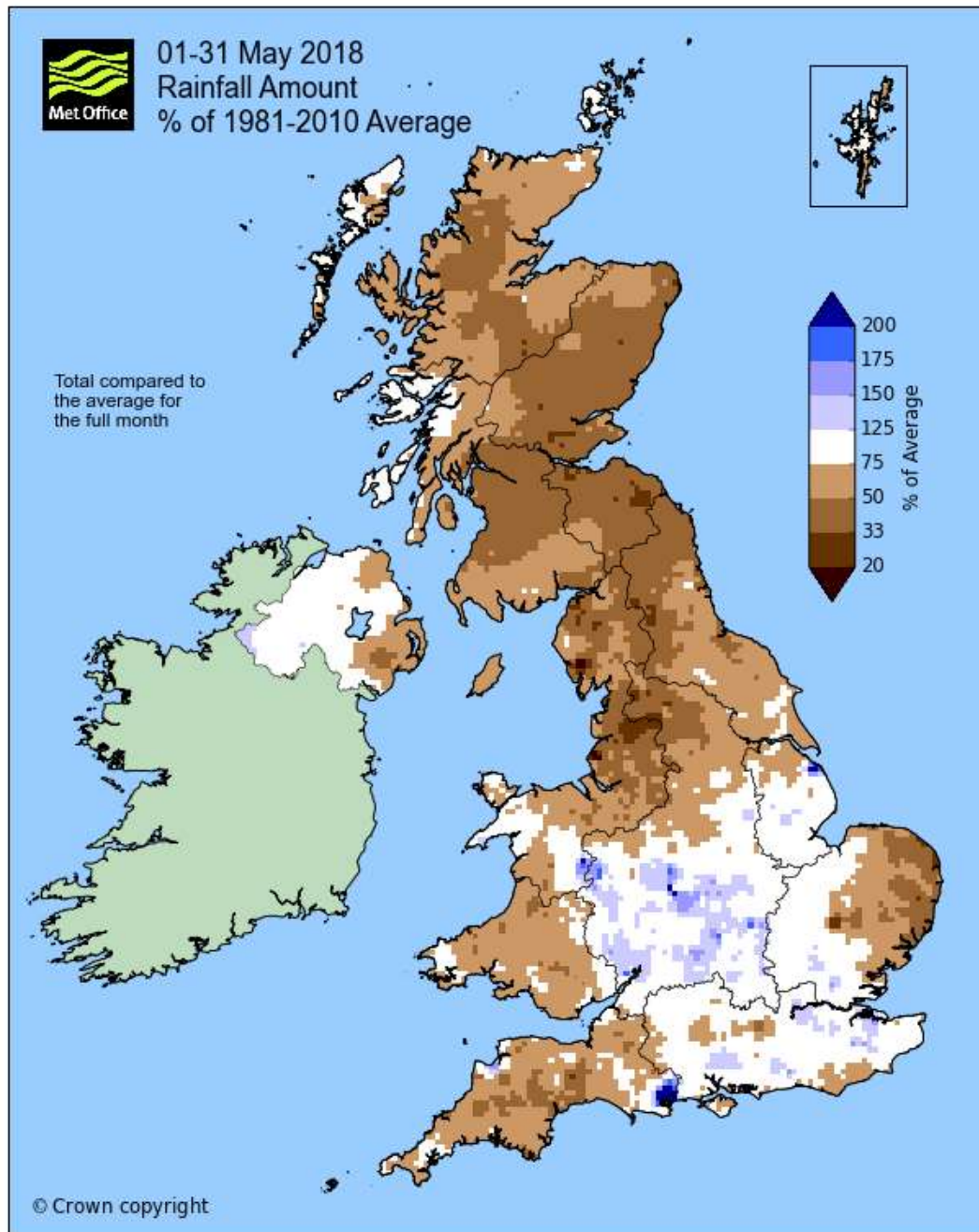


Derbyshire, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and the Isle of Wight all recorded daytime maximum temperatures 3 °C or more above their long-term average temperatures for the month.



With 245.3 hours of sunshine, May 2018 is also provisionally the sunniest May in the record stretching back to 1929. The previous sunniest May was in 1989 when 241.7 hours of sunshine were recorded. This represented 132% of the long-term average from 1981-2010. The historical county of Westmorland, and Derbyshire both recorded 150% or more of their average May sunshine hours. Only Orkney with 193 hours of sunshine was below the long-term average (97%).

Tim Legg, of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre, said: "Increased sunshine during the month has helped to keep daytime temperatures high, leading to it provisionally being the warmest May since records began in 1910. It is also likely to be the sunniest May since 1929 too."



Rainfall across the UK has only reached less than two thirds (64%) of the level anticipated during an average May. England has only received less than three-quarters (72%) of the long-term average rainfall. With an average of 46.1 mm, Scotland has only received just over half (55%) of the rainfall anticipated during May. However, with wetter than average spells during March and April, the rainfall for the UK for spring as a whole (Mar-May) has been near average.

Across the UK, the average May temperature was 1.5 °C above the long-term 1981-2010 average at 11.9 °C. Scotland was relatively even warmer with a temperature of 10.5 °C, being 1.7 °C above the long-term average.

Provisional climate statistics for May 2018.

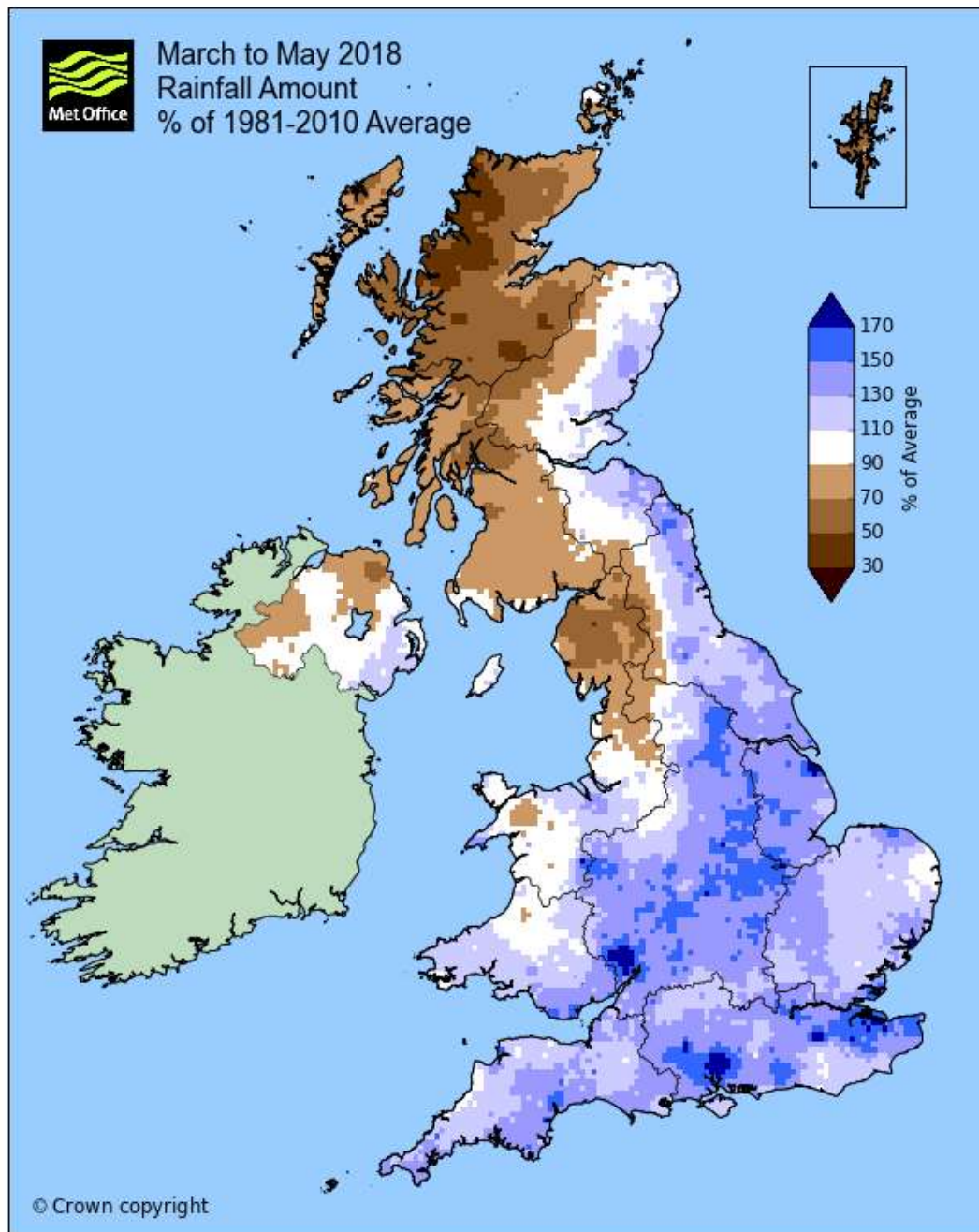
	Maximum temperature		Minimum temperature		Mean temperature		Precipitation		Sunshine duration	
Area	Act °C	Anomaly	Act °C	Anomaly	Act °C	Anomaly	Act mm	Anomaly	Act hours	Anomaly
UK	17	2.3	6.9	0.9	11.9	1.5	45.1	64	245.3	132
England	18.2	2.4	7.6	0.9	12.8	1.6	41.8	72	259.3	136
Wales	16.7	1.8	6.8	0.4	11.6	1	53.2	62	233.4	125
Scotland	15.3	2.4	5.9	1.1	10.5	1.7	46.1	55	229.7	129
N Ireland	16.3	1.8	7	1.1	11.6	1.4	58.1	80	219.7	121

Spring 2018

With a prolonged spell of easterly winds bringing cold conditions from Siberia and a few warm spells, it’s certainly been a spring of contrasts. But overall, how will Spring 2018 sit in the meteorological record?

Tim Legg added: “With 1 June being the first day of meteorological summer, we are at last able to look at the statistics for a very dynamic spring with many fluctuations. People’s impressions of spring may well be coloured by their personal weather memories, from coping with freezing conditions to enjoying a hot spell in April. Actually, it may well challenge perceptions to realise that the provisional average temperature for this spring is 8 °C meaning it has been largely warmer than average across the UK by about 0.3 °C, when compared with the average between 1981-2010.”

These figures vary across different parts of the UK with England at 9 °C, being warmer by almost 0.5 °C, while Northern Ireland’s average temperature of 7.81 °C being broadly the same as the long-term average.



Rainfall across the UK for spring 2018 - which will also include snowfall from earlier in the spring – is about average across the UK with around 236 mm. However, there are regional variations with Scotland only receiving less than three-quarters (73%) of the rainfall expected in spring, and south-east England having around 30% more than average.

Broadly speaking sunshine figures for spring were largely average with 463 hours of sunshine recorded compared with 435 hours in an average spring. However, with 468 hours of sunshine, compared with the average of 406 hours, Scotland enjoyed more sunshine than average.

Provisional climate statistics for Spring 2018

	Mean temperature		Precipitation		Sunshine duration	
Area	Act °C	Anomaly	Act mm	Anomaly	Act hours	Anomaly
UK	8.1	0.3	235.8	99.1	462.9	106.2
England	9.0	0.5	225.2	124.4	464.6	102.5
Wales	8.1	0.1	324.9	111.2	445.8	100.7
Scotland	6.5	0.2	231.4	73.1	467.8	115.2
N Ireland	7.8	-0.1	224.8	92.6	441.0	103.4